

Report of the 7th meeting of the Central African Geographic Group

Johannesburg 10 to 14 December 2007

Present: Nganyade Zowe Tiba, Clement-Thyrrell Feizouré, Tiati à Zock and Ahmad Parsa.

Absent with apologies: Nshisu Nsunga Albert

The counsellors consult about the names of the resources who will attend the junior youth training in Ghana.

1	Souonon Mouhamadou	Benin
2	Ateba Benjamin	Cameroon
3	Beatrice Tiati	Cameroon
4	Neh Sama Fridolin	Cameroon
5	Gonendji Mximin	Central African Republic
6	Neto-Lea Aora	Chad
7	Keven Aboke	Congo
8	Anni Maimouna	Côte d'Ivoire
9	Patrick	Côte d'Ivoire
10	Baron Ntanbwe Biachini	Democratic Republic of Congo
11	Kilanga Faïda Masombwe Deo	Democratic Republic of Congo
12	Delicat Stenn	Gabon
13	Sidiki Modibo Sagara	Mali
14	Souleymane Abdoulaye Ousseini	Niger
15	Michael Forchu	Nigeria
16	Julie Mwempe	Sao Tome
17	Jeannot Mungwarere	Sierra Leone
18	Naaman Barnabo	Togo
19	F.C. Agama	Ghana
20	Rosemary Mills-Tettey	Ghana
21	Asante Kyei-Baffour	Ghana

Tiati will send the list of the resources to Mrs. Arbab, copy to all Counsellors involved of centre and West Africa.

The report of the previous meeting is read and the different subjects reviewed.

Consultation follows about the strategies decided in the previous meeting.

First strategy: To strengthen the institutional capacity of the regional councils.

The Counsellors shared experience of meetings held with regional councils (Chad, East CAR and Northern Province Cameroon) for analysing clusters profiles and planning activities of the cycles of growth.

Second strategy: To strengthen all the institutes, especially the coordinators at the cluster level.

The coordinators of the institute from different clusters have been reinforced during the training in Bangui and Lubumbashi clusters. In CAR the capacity to integrate the new believers and the community of interest in the core activities is increasing by planning and by using a simple table showing how the people are distributed in the core activities during the consolidation activities.

The Counsellors have met cluster coordinators or national coordinators to consult about their activities.

For some big and successful clusters like Lubumbashi, it has been suggested to have coordinators at community level under the supervision of the cluster coordinator.

In Cameroon and Chad the institutional conferences have been an important step in reinforcing the capacity of the cluster coordinators.

In CAR the national coordinator is travelling in all clusters (first A and B, followed by C) to reinforce the capacity of the cluster coordinators.

The Auxiliary Board Members, during their travel, meet the cluster coordinators to consult together and reinforce their capacities.

Third strategy: To use the effective clusters as training centres.

Lubumbashi and Bangui clusters have been used as training centre. Auxiliary Board Members, coordinators of clusters, members of regional councils and resource persons have attended the training. In Bangui 15 friends attended the training for one week. In Lubumbashi 26 friends attended the training for 16 days. They learned the planning process; they participated through the team in the teaching activities using Anna presentation. In Bangui they had the opportunity to work with a resource person from Lubumbashi who was there for his second visit.

The next training session in Lubumbashi and Bangui will be organised in February 2008. This time resources will be invited from neighbouring countries. A better planning will be prepared for the training based on the learning of the previous training.

Concerning the cluster training centre for junior youth, it seems that Yaoundé cluster has not yet reached the required level, so more consultation is needed to know what can be done. During the coming January resource persons meeting for junior youth in Ghana, the Counsellors will consult with Mrs. Arbab about the issue. It is suggested that Yaoundé organises a training session for the friends within the country to gain experience in preparation for a later training at regional level.

Fourth strategy: To identify resource persons to assist in different fields of activities.

The process of sending the resource persons has started for some while others are still in preparation. Kashala from DRC has been in Cameroon (Douala), in CAR (Bangui) and Congo (Ndolisi) for effective teaching. Zioro from CAR will go to Congo (Djambala) once his paper will be ready for effective teaching. Chemago from CAR will go in Togo and Benin for reinforcement of institute and cluster coordinators and training. Munga from DRC will go to Congo (Musendjo) for second movement to accelerate the growth of the cluster in order to launch the intensive program of growth by Ridvan 2008.

Fifth strategy: To deploy home front pioneers.

In Cameroon 6 home front pioneers were already deployed in clusters before October.

One more moved to his pioneering post this month of December.

In Togo 4 home front pioneers forming 2 teams were already deployed in clusters before October.

In CAR 12 home front pioneers are being deployed in different clusters during this month. 6 pioneers are in teams of 2 people each. The other 6 will be supported by teaching teams.

In Chad 5 home front pioneers will be deployed in clusters in January 2008.

In Congo 1 pioneer from CAR is waiting his papers to move in a cluster and 1 home front pioneer will join the international pioneer. They will form a team. 2 home front pioneers were deployed in September/October with teaching teams.

In DRC 2 home front pioneers forming a team are already deployed in Lubutu cluster, 6 are in process to be deployed in clusters of South Kivu and Eastern Province during December or January.

In Burundi a home front pioneer will be deployed in a cluster during this month.

Sixth strategy: Deployment of teaching teams.

In Cameroon a regional teaching team of 3 members is deployed in 6 clusters to put in place the cycle of activities.

In CAR one national teaching team of 5 members will go through 8 clusters and form local teaching teams.

Review of clusters that have to launch the intensive program of growth by Ridvan 2008.

Benin.

Zowe has visited Cotonou(1), consulted with the institutions and he thinks that there is no problem for its launch.

Burundi. Ahmad will visit Bujumbura (1) at the end of December. They must be encouraged to have direct teaching to have declarations and then institute campaign. They must know that the World Centre has been informed that they will launch the intensive program of growth by Ridvan 2008. There is a need to bring a resource person to assist them with planning and execution of the activities for rapid growth.

Cameroon. All the clusters that have to launch the intensive program of growth by Ridvan 2008 know their goal. Yagoua (1) and Doukoula (2) started their first reflection meeting where the plan of activities for the cycle of growth was adopted. They are confident that they will launch their IPG by March 2008. Edea (3) is planning to launch during the month of January 2008. A home front pioneer has been deployed in Kumba (4) to accelerate the process of growth in the cluster. Mezam (5) and (6) Ngoketunjia are receiving teaching teams to raise tempo of activities.

Chad. In Bar-Koh (1) an institute campaign will allow to reach the intensive program of growth before Ridvan 2008. In N'Djamena (2) there was a problem of fund that has been solved in December. There is also a problem of books. They will temporary make photocopies while waiting to receive Ruhi books from Kinshasa. Beside the problem of fund and books, there are problem of communication and difficulties for the Counsellor to go in the country. All these factors have hindered growth. For Boor-Bo (3) there will be a home front pioneer that will settle and he will be supported by a teaching team. Barh-Sara (4) will also receive a pioneer and a teaching team.

CAR. Bagandou (1) has started 2 institute campaigns and 2 home front pioneers will soon be settled there. In Bakala (2) a pioneer is being settled that will be supported by a national teaching team through visits every month and half for intensive teaching. In Bambari (3) 2 pioneers are already in place. The national teaching team will visit them. 2 pioneers will be deployed in Berberati (4) next January and the institute is progressing. The coordinator of the cluster and the Auxiliary Board Member attended the training in Bangui cluster. In Bossangua (5) the institute is progressing very well. The updated information of the profile is not available. A resource person will be sent for intensive teaching. In Ippy (6) a home front pioneer is settling, supported by the cluster teaching

team. The national teaching team will assist the cluster. Ndele Tiri (7) will launch the intensive program of growth in February 2008. In Njoukou Fere (8) a pioneer will be deployed in December assisted by two teaching team that will teach in two localities of the cluster.

Congo. Djambala (1) will receive a pioneer from CAR and a home front pioneer with a teaching team from Brazzaville. A home front pioneer has been deployed in Dolisie (2) and a resource person has visited the cluster to organise the teaching teams. Mossendjo (3) has already a home front pioneer and is receiving a resource person from DRC to accelerate the growth of the cluster for launching the intensive program of growth.

DRC. 26 resources persons from several clusters have attended for more than 2 weeks training in Lubumbashi cluster. They are just back to implement what they have learned in their own cluster and other clusters in their region. The goal clusters must be informed that the World Centre is waiting to hear their launching before Ridvan 2008. The regional councils must be informed and asked to assist the clusters to reach their goal. For the clusters that are stagnating a resource person must be sent to assist them to plan, with the cluster agencies the teaching, the institute campaign and the multiplication of core activities. The clusters of the Democratic Republic of the Congo are: Badi (1), Bayan (2), Bandundu ville (3), Boende City (4), Buku (5), Bulengera (6), Chasebu (7), Kabinda (8), Kabwali (9), Kamina (10), Kingila (11), Kolwezi (12), Lubutu (13), Makaw (14), Manono (15), Mbandaka (16), Misha (17) and (18) Ola.

Rwanda. Kigali (1) has planned to launch by Ridvan 2008. Intensive institute campaigns are ongoing and the cluster committee is organising a pre-launching activities including a period of intensive teaching.

Togo. In Korbongou (1) a program of intensive institute campaign is in place and the cluster will start the intensive program of growth by March 2008.

Country	Current IPGs	IPGs planned by Ridvan 2008	Total IPGs planned by Ridvan 2008
Benin	1	1	1
Burundi	0	1	1
Cameroun	5	6	11
CAR	4	8	12
Chad	2	4	6
Congo	2	3	5
DRC	21	18	39
Rwanda	0	1	1
Togo	1	1	2
Total	36	43	79

There are some other clusters that can launch the intensive program of growth before Ridvan 2008 and these will be kept aside in case some of those planned for will not reach their goal.

These clusters are:

Materi (1) in Benin, Bijombo (2) and Mikenge (3) of South Kivu in DRC.

The Counsellors analyse the clusters profile starting from the clusters that have started the intensive program of growth. Each Counsellor takes note of the strategies and actions to be implemented.

Fako in Cameroon needs assistance to increase the growth and reinforce the institute process. 2 strategies can be used. A resource person can go from Kenya or DRC to assist the cluster and/or some friends of the cluster can be sent to Kenya to participate in training in a successful cluster in the future.

Douala in Cameroon has received a resource person from DRC (Kashala) with whom the cluster has planned the cycle. During the expansion phase the cluster had 24 declarations. It is suggested to ask again the resource person to go for the next cycle to assist the cluster to stabilise the growth.

The Counsellors notice that the analysis of the cluster profiles is reaching little by little the cluster agencies, the Auxiliary Board Members, the regional councils and the National Spiritual Assemblies. This prepares the way for the Counsellors to focus in the future on strategies for accelerating growth as the details plan of activities will be done at the cluster level.

The Counsellors consulted on the challenge of make Ruhi books available in all the countries of the sub-region.

For the moment, it seems that it is wise to print the books in Kinshasa and send them to the other countries. In medium and long term, each country has to develop its capacity to produce its own books and materials.

The Counsellors think that Mr. Fridolin, who was chosen to be the financial assistant resource person of the group, following his immoral behaviour that had the consequence to be released as ABM, has to be also released from this duty. Clement will prepare a draft letter to send him and he will share it with the other Counsellor for approval. The Counsellors agree that Mr. Emile Ekouomo from Congo Brazzaville, who is already assisting the institutions in Central African Republic with finance, to be the financial assistant resource person for the group. To write a letter to Emile, asking him if he accept to be the financial assistant resource for the Counsellors of central geographic zone. If he accepts, ask him to start with Congo Brazzaville, then Benin and then Cameroon.

The Counsellors consulted about the work of the administrative assistant and concluded that, for the moment they are not in the condition to give him in time the information required to organise the profiles for the meeting.

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The consultation on the clusters that have launched the intensive program of growth continues.

The Counsellors consulted about the next training in Bangui and Lubumbashi.

2 friends from Gabon, 2 from Congo, 4 from Cameroon and 2 from Chad will be invited for the next training in Bangui. 1 or 2 friends from Rwanda and from Burundi + other friends from DRC clusters will be invited for the next training in Lubumbashi.

The program of the training will have the following elements:

1. Planning of expansion and consolidation. Responsible: Cluster committee, Institute coordinators and ABMs. Objectives: organization of teaching projects, teaching teams and identification of receptive population or localities. Period: First week, possibly a full week-end.

2. Sensitization of the community, Local Spiritual Assemblies, assistants, women and youth. Period: the week following the planning.
 3. Reflection meeting (joyful celebration and serious consultation) followed by orientation and refresher courses. Target: teaching teams. Period: Possibly second weekend.
 4. Expansion phase.
 5. Evaluation of the expansion phase and planning for the consolidation phase.
- The length of each step will be adapted according to the local situation.

Report prepared by Ahmad Parsa on 16 December 2007.